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ABSTRACT

This book provides school leaders with nonconfrontational and guilt-free strategies for handling difficult teachers who undermine efforts toward school improvement, negatively influence other staff members, and behave in ways that create problems for students and staff. It looks at what difficult teachers are and compares them to the teacher "superstar." In resolving a difficult-teacher issue, it is recommended that a nonconfrontational approach be taken. The principal should realize that positive and productive teachers on the staff would like the issue resolved in a professional manner. Suggested strategies include motivational techniques that bring out the good in difficult teachers, giving them more responsibility, and praising them in front of a superior. Other strategies include making these teachers uncomfortable by empowering "the good guys," having them accept responsibility for what goes on in the classroom and not "pass the buck" to the principal, and minimizing their negative influences in the teachers' lounge and workrooms. Further important topics of discussion include new faculty, dismissal, and retirement. The new edition features a section on eliminating negative behaviors by implementing effective questioning strategies. The section also shows how to apply "The Best Teacher/Worst Teacher" Test. The book concludes with general tips and guidelines in dealing with these individuals. (Contains 26 references.) (RT)

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